

Application Serial No. 10/618,955
Reply to Office Action of December 22, 2004

PATENT
Docket: CU-3290

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully note that Claims 1-6 are currently pending in the application. The Office Action stating Claims 1-5 as pending is in error.

Applicants respectfully thank the Examiner for returning the PTO-1449 Form with his acknowledgement dated December 20, 2004. One Japanese Reference No. 2000-232181, however, does not bear the Examiner's initial, which appears to be a simple inadvertent error. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to enter his initials for this reference and send it again to the undersigned attorney.

Claims 1-6 are pending in the present application before this amendment. By the present amendment, Claims 3-4 have been cancelled without prejudice, and Claim 1 has been amended. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0038442 (Kinsman) in view of the Admitted Prior Art (APA). The "et al." suffix, which may appear after a reference name, is omitted in this paper.

In response, Claim 1 has been amended to include all limitations of Claims 3-4, and Claims 3-4 have been cancelled without prejudice.

It is respectfully asserted that the amended Claim 1, as amended, is not taught or suggested by Kinsman or APA, whether they are considered in combination or individually.

As amended, Claim 1 recites, inter alia, that --an extrusion is formed at a upper end of the sealing post-- and --the sealing cap is adhered on the extrusion of the sealing post--. That is, the structure of the upper end of the claimed sealing

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post of the present invention is completely different from Kinsman's raised wall 26 (see FIGS. 6-9 and 12-13 of Kinsman).

Kinsman is directed to molding the cavity (as in FIGS. 2, 3A-3C) such that the raised walls 26 in FIG. 3 is not a separate piece connected to the carrier substrate 2 but a "contiguous" one (Kinsman [0026]). Alternatively, Kinsman teaches "depositing a flowable material on top surface 6 in one or more sequentially cured layers to build the contiguous matrix of raised walls 26" (Kinsman [0028]).

Nowhere in Kinsman [0026] to [0030] and in the corresponding drawings teaches or suggests the claimed structure of –an extrusion is formed at a upper end of the sealing post– and –the sealing cap is adhered on the extrusion of the sealing post--.

Therefore, whether Kinsman and/or APA are considered in combination or individually, not all recited limitations of the amended Claim 1 are taught or suggested. Accordingly, at least on this ground alone, withdrawal of the rejection and an indication of the allowable subject matter is respectfully requested.

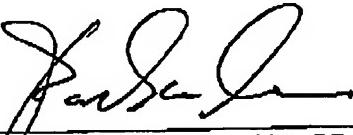
For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-2 and 5-6, now pending in this application, are in condition for allowance over the cited references. This amendment is considered to be responsive to all points raised in the Office Action. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and earnestly solicit an indication of allowable subject matter.

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Should the Examiner have any remaining questions or concerns, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone to expeditiously resolve such concerns.

Respectfully submitted,



Dated: March 17, 2005

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